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Letter, 1863 February 13, Oscar D. Ladley to Mother [Catherine Ladley]

Oscar D. Ladley

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Camp near Brooks Station Va.
Feb. 13th 1863.

Dear Mother,

I received yours and the
Girls this evening, and hasten to answer.
I received your letter in which you gave an
account of certain affairs, and I must say
it made me feel ^{like} the weight of my fist
against somebodys head would relieve me
very much. I wrote you about it in my last
and I hardly know what to add. You say the
note was given by Father and was one hundred
dollars, (that is what Minchell says) Now what is
the interest on it up to this date. I cant
think of having the Keens sold and if it
can be fixed up any way reasonable I am
willing to do it. Find out who and where the
lawyer is, and manage to see him and have
him stay proceedings and it is likly it can
be fixed up yet. From what Harlan says
it don't look to me as if going to law about
it would do us any good. What do you think?
It cant be all paid at once but it can be

paid by instalments. Try and get some
one who will interest themselves enough to
help you. Don't let them mix you in law
unless you can get better encouragement
than Hearlan gives. Now write often and
keep me posted about it. If it was
only a hundred dollars I would pay it
and let them go to the —. maybe that
is wrong but it is the way I feel about it.

I read the letter of the "Democrat" you sent
me and think it is very good also the
poetry. Lieut Morcy is not Captain yet but hopes
soo to be. So people think the war will end
in the spring do they? well I cant say that that
I think it will, but I hope so.

Tell John Hankins not to flatter me, I am
higher now than I ever expected to be after I
was so wrongfully hoaxed by Swope. but I
will do the best I can whatever I am.

I have not received any word of any kind from
Jimmy Beatty, but I will tell you and you can
tell him just how the matter stands. When
the Regiment left Ohio Jimmy was sick and

could not go with us, so Swope reported him on the rolls as a deserter, and his name was dropped. So he had better keep still and say nothing about it, he can not get any pay, and if the authorities knew where he was they would take him up as a deserter and most likely punish him severely. Tell him to say nothing about it and he will not be molested.

Now to Mary & Ally,

Well in the first place we don't see much else but soldiers and guns, and that is one reason that camp life is so monotonous, besides there is no sleighing in this part of Virginia. I suppose the Grimes that Kent Reed saw was Howard, as I got a letter from him some time ago and he stated that he belonged to the 7th Kansas Cavalry. he also told me that his Father was a Surgeon, Ed was Quartermaster, John was a Master in the Navy and Bob was an Orderly sergeant. We and wanted to know whether or not the Grimes family wasnt going it on the war question. I suppose the marching orders that John Kim wrote about was there that brought us here. If we all get home safe, I have no doubt ~~that~~ ^{but} what St. Morey will make me a visit and Mr Kim can

see him. So I did not have to go to Washington
to get mustered this time, as there is a mustering
officer with the Corps. I will do the best I can
to get you a Photograph.

I have never received any of those paper you sent
me, but would be mighty glad to get them.
I don't like the President's Proclamation because I can't
see the good it is doing, but I will keep mum.

So Harlan has not forgotten ann yet, I expect she has
forgotten him though. I expect the reason somebody
sent you a valentine so soon was, so that they could
have time to send another, or maybe they supposed
you would find out who sent it and you would
return the compliment on the 14th.

The darky is all right, he and two others of the
colored persuasion started for Ohio the other day
but could not get a pass and so came back and
has gone to cooking and blacking our high top
Wellingtons. He still talks about Marzetta where
he says he used to live, and Michigan lake & ~~Camden~~
Camblin (Camden) Galavallie (Galapoliis) He says
he came into Virginia with the hundred and Massa-
toashnetts Regiment he says they were at Cheat Mountain
for a long time. I suppose he meant some Massachusetts
Regiment, so he got it the hundred & Massatoashnetts.

Every night he will sit down before the fire pull off his
shoes stick his feet in amongst the coals and talk
for an hour or two. When he wants to call our attention
he'll say "Lu-tent", "Lu-tent", "O Lu-tent"! One night he
was sitting by the fire very quiet, all at once says he,
"Lu-tent, O Lu-tent!"

Well, wat do you want?

"Did you ever over heat yourself?"

No. Did you?

"Yes!"

How?

Well I guess
there is not
much white
papers left
this time.
mit some
Ocar

"Driven snails to water. yah! yah! hi! hi! hi! yah! yah!"

Then he stoped laughing & says he, "Lu-tent, wa-tis good for
de campaign in de foot?" "He got it."